

Indiana FFA Article – July 7, 2014

The Indiana FFA met for the 85th annual State FFA Convention at Purdue University, June 16-19. Over 3,000 FFA members joined together where they were encouraged to ignite their interest in agriculture, passion for service, and the potential of their future. Monday, June 16th, the sea of blue corduroy jackets flooded Purdue University where a large number of FFA members competed in Career Development Events, ranging from Public Speaking to Ag Mechanics or from Ag Sales to Natural Resource Demonstrations. Thank you to ISDA Staff: Hudson Badskey, Andres Meyer, and Tori Mills for helping in judging FFA Career Development Events.

Convention's General Sessions kicked off Tuesday evening and as convention progressed, 348 FFA members received their Hoosier Degree – the second highest Degree a FFA member can receive. In addition, the following agriculture teachers: Scott Jacobs, Lisa Paxton, Mike Shirey, Gary Stuckey, and Tom Wallace and the Indiana FFA Program Specialist, Joe Martin, received their Honorary FFA Degree. The Honorary Hoosier Degree recognizes the efforts of others who work for the betterment of Indiana FFA. Dr. Jerry Peters was awarded with the Distinguished Service Award; Dr. Peters has approximately 40 years of experiences in teaching and learning at both the secondary and postsecondary levels of education. Thursday afternoon, seven new, young, and fresh individuals were elected by their peers to serve as the 2014-2015 Indiana FFA State Officer Team. Thank you, David Bausman, Suzi Spahr, DyNishia Miller, and Aly Wells for attending the 6th General Session. The newly elected State Officer team is as follows:

President: Brittany Young, Hope
Northern Region Vice-President: Lindsey O'Hara, Warsaw
Southern Region Vice-President: Jacob Mueller, Eastern Hancock
Secretary: Skylar Clingan, Prairie Heights
Treasurer: Kathleen Jacobs, Huntington North
Reporter: Dakota Westphal, Tri-County
Sentinel: Derek Berkshire, Caston

Also at the 85th State FFA Convention, the 2014 membership numbers were released and Indiana has nearly 10,300 members, a modern day high for the Indiana FFA! After State Convention ended the retired & newly elected officers spent time debriefing on what to expect for the year ahead. The newly elected officers hit the ground running and just completed two weeks of training - last week they were in Springfield, Illinois for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers. This week they are hosting their first camp, Summer Challenge, at the Leadership Center. The team hopes to meet with Director McKinney next week and see the ISDA offices. If you don't get a chance to meet them then, they will be at the State Fair all 17 days within the FFA Pavilion!